

Boudreau, Paul E

SK40

To: Burger, David**Subject:** RE: Reports, PA Actions on Detainee Issues

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Orlansky, Michael D**Sent:** Tuesday, December 06, 2005 7:12 PM**To:** Fitzgerald, Christopher(Main State); Fleming, Mark L(Main State); Graffy, Colleen P(Main State); Lockard, Joann M**Cc:** Milovanovic, Gillian A; Wohlers, Paul; Hubler, Stephen A; Pfeuffer, Paul(Main State)**Subject:** Reports, PA Actions on Detainee Issues

In response to this tasking, PA Skopje reports:

1. Summary of significant Macedonian media coverage today and yesterday of alleged secret flights and detentions:

(Dec. 6) – Macedonian Information Agency story cites an ABC report saying that until November, suspected Al-Qaeda terrorists were kept in secret CIA prisons in Europe. Eleven prisoners have been or will be transferred to CIA facility somewhere in Northern Africa, the story cited CIA agents as saying. It was said that the CIA declined comment on the allegation. Tabloid **Vreme** (page 5), often hostile to U.S., cites a **Washington Post** Dec. 4 ry saying that besides the U.S. and Macedonia, Germany was also involved in the kidnapping of its citizen Khaled el-Masri, in Macedonia. As German media report, Vreme says in a separate box, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will meet with the German Chancellor today and discuss, among other topics, allegations of secret CIA prisons in Europe and the el-Masri case. Vreme adds that the meeting coincides with the first court hearing on the el-Masri case to be conducted in the U.S. today.

(Dec. 5) – Media continue to carry follow up stories. Influential, left-leaning **Utrinski Vesnik** (page 12) carries a **BBC** report saying that the German Government has a list of at least 437 airplanes for which there are indications that they were used for CIA operations in German airspace. Utrinski Vesnik and national news agency **MIA** also carry a **Mail on Sunday** report alleging that CIA planes flew over Great Britain without the knowledge of British authorities. Citing the London **Sunday Telegraph**, **MIA** reports that during her forthcoming European tour, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will ask European allies not to insist on investigating allegations of CIA secret prisons in Eastern Europe, as well as CIA secret flights for transferring prisoners in third countries where prison torture is allowed or tolerated. Popular independent tabloid **Vest** quotes foreign media reports saying that a luxurious Boeing 737-700 is the "flying CIA prison" which transported terrorism suspects and landed in Skopje last year. Under the headline "CIA Prison Landed In Skopje, Too" the paper reports that the plane picked up Lebanese-German Khalid el-Masri in Skopje in January 2004 and took him to Afghanistan. The date when Masri was picked up at Skopje airport coincides with an article published in Vest on January 27, 2004, under the headline: "What Was Luxurious U.S. Plane Doing At Skopje Airport the Evening Between Friday and Saturday: Mysterious Passenger At Skopje Airport (page 5)."

2. On December 6, post distributed Secretary Rice's statement at Andrews AFB prior to her departure for Europe widely to all media and selected other contacts. Placements and commentaries will be reported tomorrow.

3. Also on Dec. 6, Political-Economic Section Chief met with Aleksandar Matovski, the National Security Advisor to Macedonian Prime Minister Vlado Buckovski. Matovski is a close contact of post and was a participant in a U.S. Studies Institute on American foreign policy and national security issues at the University of Delaware, Jan.-Feb. 2005. Following that meeting, Public Affairs, through POL-ECON, provided Mr. Matovski with three texts: Secretary Rice's Andrews AFB statement; her press availability en route to Berlin; and the White House Spokesman's Dec. 5 press gaggle aboard Air Force One.

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Post appreciates EUR support and will continue to report on how these issues and statements by USG officials are reported in the media.

Regards,
Mike

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-----Original Message-----

From: Fitzgerald, Christopher

Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2005 1:11 AM

To: EUR-PPD-PAO-DL

Cc: EUR-PPD-IO-DL; EUR-PPD-DL; EUR-PPD-PA; EUR-PPD-Dirs

Subject: Important tasking re detainee issues

Importance: High

PAOs/IOs,

Please see STATE 219905 (confidential) with PD tasking on detainee issues (I sent it to PAOs in an email on the classified side as well). It's an ALDAC, but there is of course great interest in how this issue plays during the S visit to Europe this week. We await your reports - please copy me, your PD desk officer, and Joann Lockard, as well as DAS Graffy.

Thanks.

Chris